

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, as follows:

Researches carried out by the inventors of this application, however, showed that even though the carbon does not stick to the surface of the porcelain insulator 2, sparks may be produced between the second ground electrode 5 and the center electrode 3 depending upon specifications and/or operating conditions of the engine.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10, as follows:

The production of sparks between the second ground electrode 5 and the center electrode 3 when there is no carbon sticking to the porcelain insulator 2 will cause a portion, as indicated by S in the drawing, of the side wall of the center electrode 3 to be worn or scooped away, thus resulting in scattering of metallic components of the center electrode 3 onto the surface of the porcelain insulator 2. When the metallic components are deposited on the porcelain insulator 2, it facilitates ease of production of sparks between the second ground electrode 5 and the center electrode 3, thus increasing the ~~worn~~wear of the side wall of the center electrode 3 undesirably.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 13, as follows:

The wear resisting member is provided over an entire ~~periphery~~circumference of the side wall of the center electrode.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16, as follows:

The first ground electrode 4 is, as can be seen from Fig. 1, bent inwardly and extends over the noble metal chip 3d installed on the tip 3a of the center electrode 3 to define a spark gap A, as shown in Fig. 2, between a side surface of the end of the first ground electrode 4 and the end of the noble metal chip 3d. In the side surface of the first ground electrode 4 opposed to the

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noble metal chip 3d, a noble metal chip 4a<sub>d</sub> made of a Pt alloy or an Ir alloy is, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, embedded by welding

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16, as follows:

The second ground electrodes 5 and 6 are opposed diametrically to each other and bent to have end surfaces 5a and 6a facing the shoulder 3b of the center electrode 3 beyond the tip 2a of the porcelain insulator 2 to define second spark gaps in which sparks are to be produced, as already described in the introductory part of this application, between the end surfaces 5a and 6a and the base 3c of the shoulder 3b beyond the tip 2a of the porcelain insulator 2 when the tip 2a of the porcelain insulator 2 is stained with carbon. The end surfaces 5a and 6a of the second ground electrodes 5 and 6 are located outside the tip 2a of the porcelain insulator 2. Only one of the second ground electrodes 5 and 6 may alternatively be installed on the metal shell 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 25, as follows:

Further, the width L, as shown in Fig. 4(b), of the wear resisting members 7 or the distance between sides of each of the wear resisting members 7 opposed in a widthwise direction of the second ground electrodes 5 and 6 is preferably greater than or equal to 0.5mm. The wear resisting members 7 may alternatively be formed in the entire ~~peripheral~~circumferential surface of the center electrode 3.

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